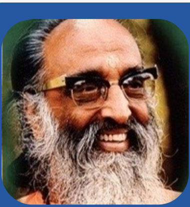

Patrika

Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles

SPECIAL ISSUE

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CHINMAYA MISSION LOS ANGELES
Vedanta, Wisdom, Spiritual Growth
Chinmaya Rameshwaram
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USA
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Over Thirty Years Of Service To Humanity

SWAMI CHINMAYANANDA
100
1916-2016
UNTO HIM OUR BEST

Message from Pujya Guruji

All Members of Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles

Dear All,

Hari Om! Greetings from Austin!

My recent yajna in L.A. was superb! It was organized meticulously and beautifully, involving all team members, who did their respective jobs efficiently with all devotion. I was happy to meet them in the group *bhiksha*s.

The cultural events every day before my lecture by our Bala Vihar children and different *anjali* groups were joyful and set the right atmosphere for the talks. The response from people was very encouraging.

On my birthday, I was continuously showered with pleasant surprises. Naturally, that made me very happy!!

Our center is progressing steadily under the able guidance of Swami Ishwarananda and the cheerful presence of Acharya Mahadevan.

Hearty congratulations to you all! God's grace and Pujya Gurudev's blessings are always with you.

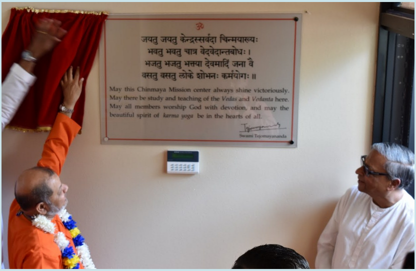
With Love & Om,

Tejomayananda

CMLA Revels in Guruji Swami Tejomayananda's Wisdom and Humor

For members of Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles and the larger Southern California community interested in Vedanta, the week of June 28 - July 4 provided a veritable feast of spiritual thought and wisdom. Hundreds of listeners gathered each evening at Chinmaya Rameshwaram to hear Guruji Swami Tejomayananda, the worldwide head of Chinmaya Mission, expound on the Bhagavad Gita.

With a clarity that broke down complex ideas to seem gloriously simple, Guruji reached out to a diverse audience while zeroing in on the singular notion "Foster Your Freedom." With chapter four of the holy Gita in focus, Guruji made clear that ultimate freedom lay in liberation from the cycle of life and death. Given that the chapter delineates on Karma Yoga or the yoga of action, Guruji spoke of the different kinds of action and their effect on the individual. The true seeker will not be attached to his or her actions and will be rewarded with a pure mind, he said. Guruji's talks were studded with humorous nuggets that brought laughter but unfailingly provided examples of Vedantic truths that easily lingered in the memories of listeners.

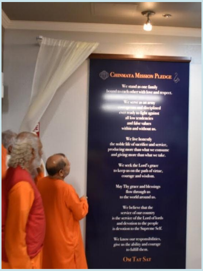


ॐ

जयतु जयतु केन्द्रस्सर्वदा चिन्मयाख्यः
भवतु भवतु चात्र वेदवेदान्तबोधः ।
भजतु भजतु भक्त्या देवमादिं जना वै
वसतु वसतु लोके शोभनः कर्मयोगः ॥

May this Chinmaya Mission center always shine victoriously. May there be study and teaching of the *Vedas* and *Vedanta* here. May all members worship God with devotion, and may the beautiful spirit of *karma yoga* be in the hearts of all.

Tejomayananda
Swami Tejomayananda



CHINMAYA MISSION PLEDGE

We stand as one family
bound to each other with love and respect.

We serve as an army
courageous and disciplined
ever ready to fight against
all low tendencies
and false values
within and without us.

We live honestly
the noble life of sacrifice and service,
producing more than what we consume
and giving more than what we take.

We seek the Lord's grace
to keep us on the path of virtue,
courage and wisdom.

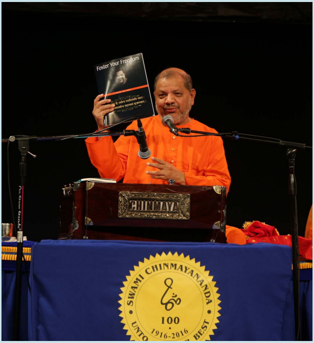
May Thy grace and blessings
flow through us
to the world around us.

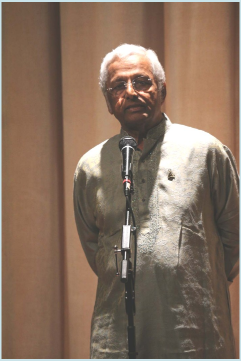
We believe that the
service of our country
is the service of the Lord of lords
and devotion to the people
is devotion to the Supreme Self.

We know our responsibilities,
give us the ability and courage
to fulfill them.

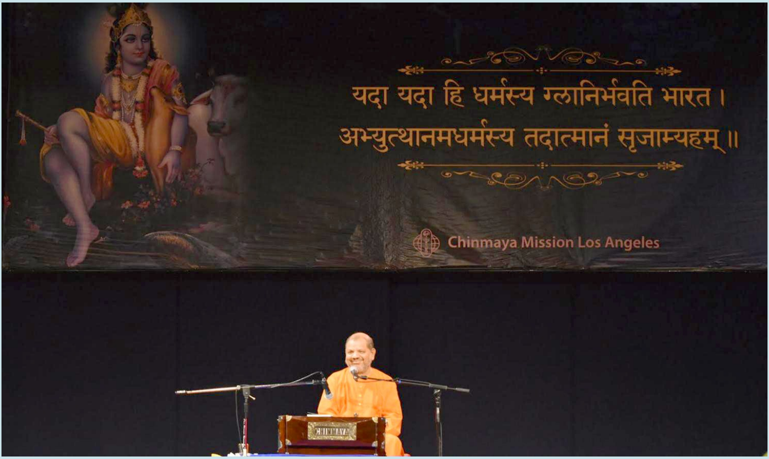
OM TAT SAT

Each evening, prior to the discourse, a cultural segment showcased the talent and learning at CMLA. Balavihar children, from the far flung centers that make up CM in Southern California, presented plays which were well enacted and scripted. The topics they chose ranged from how students of today approach a guru, the caste system from the time of Adi Sankara to its distortion today, the young lord Krishna going to Sandeepany ashram and a summary of the transcendental knowledge in the Gita. The youth group presented a musical on 'Navadha Bhakti.' Youth also performed classical dances that were of high caliber while adult members did a lilting garba.





RAJNI PATEL
SAROJ PATEL


यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत ।
अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम् ॥
Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles
CHINMAYA

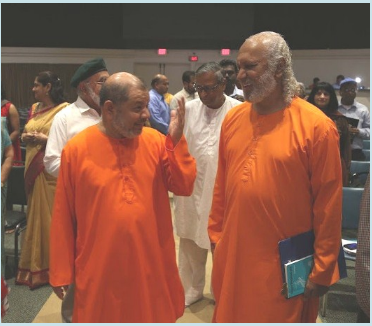
The various other groups that also performed included Chinmayanjali the Vedanta student group which chanted the Ganapati Atharvashirsham and Durga Suktam among others; Shlokanjali, the adult group which also chanted shlokas; Shruti, the children's choir which sang in praise of the lord and also a composition of Guruji himself, "Koi Vando, Koi Nindo"; Swaranjali, the adult choir, who sang with a full instrumental ensemble and brought great delight when Swami Ishwarananda, the head Acharya of CMLA, joined them onstage for a bhajan.

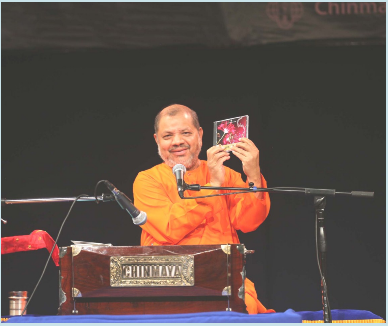
CHINMAYA MISSION
ॐ
Vasanas
Body
Mind
Intellect
Perceiver
Feeler
Thinker
Objects
Emotions
Thoughts

The week-long event was highlighted by a marquee moment – the 65th birthday of Guruji Swami Tejomayananda. CM members gathered on June 30th morning in prayer that began with a traditional ayush homa, where the gods are invoked for a long and healthy life and then a meaningful ceremony where children conducted a paduka puja to their guru. Guruji is known for his love of music and has composed and sung several pieces. In homage, a musical afternoon followed where he was regaled by a sitar and vocal concert.

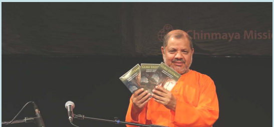
Guruji on different evenings released a book and music CD The book, a commentary on the Guru Stotram by Swami Ishwarananda, he praised by saying, he had read it, it was good and a must read for all. The CD "Svara Manjari" is a recording by the Swaranjali group.

Happy Birthday
Swamiji





Earlier, on his arrival on June 28, Guruji who was returning to the Southland after four years, was welcomed with the blowing of conches, led in procession inside Chinmaya Rameshwaram to the chanting of the Guru Stotram and offered the purnakhumbham by Acharya Mahadevji and Viji Mahadev, Guruji then opened "Chinmaya Smriti" a newly built conference room that also showcases in pictures, the Southern California connect of our revered founder, Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda.



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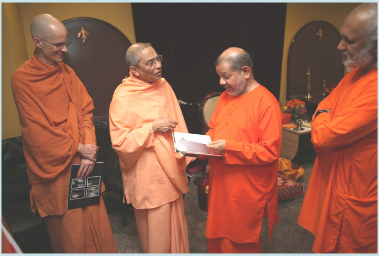
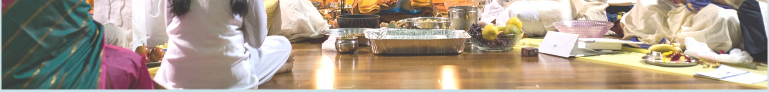


On July 4, the last day of the jnana yagna, CMLA held a Guru Paduka puja in which seniors, adults and children participated. The congregation then chanted the name of the Guru 108 times and then heard several speakers talk emotionally of their association with Pujya Gurudev and his irrevocable impact on them.



CHINMAYA MISSION
LOS ANGELES

Guruji, during his visit to the Southland also made time to visit the Siddhivinayak temple in Brea where he spoke on the need and love for god and enjoyed a musical presentation by Swagatha Chakraborty. Guruji also met with members of several different organizations who called on him through the week.

When he left the Southland for Texas, in continuation of his U.S. tour, he left a more enlightened Southland community and one that looks forward to hearing him again.

TOP

Please send articles and pictures for publication to Nimmi Raj at nimmicmla@gmail.com

Many thanks for this special issue to:
Photos: Surendra Prakash, Ashok Balasubramanian, Sur Ladva